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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/602,335	06/23/2003	Scott Forstall	18602-08002	2025

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FENWICK & WEST LLP
SILICON VALLEY CENTER
801 CALIFORNIA STREET
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94041

EXAMINER

BULLOCK JR, LEWIS ALEXANDER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2195

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/602,335

Applicant(s)

FORSTALL ET AL.

Examiner

Lewis A. Bullock, Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 4-16 and 18-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 4-16 and 18-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 June 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/27/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 2, 4-16, 18-32 and 35-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by MOODY (U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0167310 A1).

As to claim 18, MOODY teaches a method for threading e-mail messages, the method comprising: receiving a first e-mail message (electronic mail) (via a mail agent) (pg. 5-6, para. 0068); determining that the first e-mail message (electronic mail) is related to a second e-mail message (electronic mail) (via mail agent) (pg. 5-6, para. 0068), the second e-mail message received previously to the first e-mail message (wherein the first message is a reply to the second message); creating an e-mail thread (via generating a shadow document / setting parent child identifiers / conversational thread tree builder / electronic mail "I" thread summarization algorithm) (pg. 5, para. 0064 – 0067; pg. 5-6, para. 0068; pg. 6, para 0070-0071; pg. 7, para. 0080-0084); and associating the e-mail thread with the first e-mail and the second e-mail (via generating a shadow document / setting parent child identifiers / conversational thread tree builder / electronic mail "I" thread summarization algorithm) (pg. 5, para. 0064-0067; pg. 5-6,

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para. 0068; pg. 6, para 0070-0071; pg. 7, para. 0080-0084), the thread additionally including a persistent thread header (shadow document), the thread header having information (meta data) derived from attributes of at least one of the e-mails (pg. 5, para. 0064-0067).

As to claim 4, MOODY teaches the persistent thread header includes a subject (subject) of the e-mail thread (pg. 5, para. 0066).

As to claim 5, MOODY teaches the persistent thread header includes an originator of the e-mail thread (sender / receiver) (pg. 5, para. 0066).

As to claim 6, MOODY teaches the persistent thread header includes indicia of the number of messages in the thread (via each category having a display count) (pg. 11, para. 0109-0111).

As to claim 7, MOODY teaches the persistent thread header includes a time that the e-mail thread was most recently updated (date) (pg. 5, para 0066).

As to claim 19, MOODY teaches the steps of: receiving a third e-mail message (electronic mail); determining that the third e-mail message is related to the e-mail thread (via parsing the message to compare with threads); associating the third e-mail message with the e-mail thread (via updating the metadata); and updating the persistent

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thread header to include information derived from attributes of the third e-mail message (pg. 5, para. 0064 – 0067; pg. 5-6, para. 0068; pg. 6, para 0070-0071; pg. 7, para. 0080-0084).

As to claim 20, MOODY teaches displaying information from the thread header in a user interface (pg. 7, para. 0077-0079).

As to claim 21, MOODY teaches the displayed information is displayed in a color associated with a sender of the first e-mail (pg. 7, para. 0077-0079).

As to claim 22, MOODY teaches the displayed information is displayed in a color associated with a sender of the second e-mail (pg. 7, para. 0077-0079).

As to claim 23, MOODY teaches each sender of an e-mail (electronic mail) has an associated priority (different priority types), and the displayed information is displayed in a color associated with a sender having the highest priority (pg. 11, para. 0109-0111).

As to claim 24, MOODY teaches displaying information from at least one unthreaded e-mail message in the same user interface (via displaying the general folder or general mail) (pg. 11, para. 0109-0111).

As to claim 25, MOODY teaches displaying an expansion icon associated with the thread header in the user interface (icon buttons) (pg. 11, para. 0109-0111).

As to claim 26, MOODY teaches responsive to a selection of the expansion icon, displaying information about each e-mail message associated with the thread in the user interface (via displaying the icon button of categories and allowing for a selection of the icon button) (pg. 11, para. 0109-0111).

As to claim 27, MOODY teaches highlighting for selection an oldest unread e-mail message associated with the thread (via selecting a thread and highlighting all messages associated with a thread such that the user can select the oldest message) (pg. 10, para. 0101-0103).

As to claim 28, MOODY teaches e-mail messages associated with the thread are displayed in a common color (via color-coding the subject of a message) (pg. 7, para. 0077-0079).

As to claim 29, MOODY teaches the first e-mail message is related to the second e-mail message if it is a reply to the second e-mail message (pg. 5, para. 0064 – 0067; pg. 5-6, para. 0068; pg. 6, para 0070-0071; pg. 7, para. 0080-0084).

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As to claim 30, MOODY teaches the first e-mail message is a reply to the second e-mail message if a In-Reply-To field of a header of the first e-mail message identifies the second e-mail message (pg. 5, para. 0064 – 0067; pg. 5-6, para. 0068; pg. 6, para 0070-0071; pg. 7, para. 0080-0084).

As to claim 31, MOODY teaches the first e-mail message is related to the second e-mail message if it includes a forward of the second e-mail message (pg. 5, para. 0064 – 0067; pg. 5-6, para. 0068; pg. 6, para 0070-0071; pg. 7, para. 0080-0084).

As to claim 32, MOODY teaches the first e-mail and the second e-mail are stored in different folders of a user's mailbox (different categories) (pg. 11, para. 0108-0111).

As to claims 2, 8-12 and 35, reference is made to a system that corresponds to the method of claims 18, 4-7, and 19 and is therefore met by the rejection of claims 18, 4-7 and 19 above.

As to claims 13-16, 36 and 37, reference is made to a program product that corresponds to the method of claims 18, 4-7 and 19 and is therefore met by the rejection of claims 18, 4-7 and 19 above.

As to claims 38 and 39, reference is made to a system that corresponds to the method of claims 18 and 19 and is therefore met by the rejection of claims 18 and 19 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MOODY (U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0167310 A1).

As to claims 33 and 34, MOODY substantially discloses the invention above. However, MOODY does not explicitly teach that the different folders are the user's set items folder and personal items folder. MOODY teaches that e-mails are stored in different folders (categories) (pg. 11, para. 0108-0111). Official Notice is taken in that it is well known in the art that user's sent items and personal items folders are well known categories for an e-mail system and therefore would be obvious to one skilled in the art that the e-mail messages of MOODY are stored in the well known folders to associate and categorize e-mail messages.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

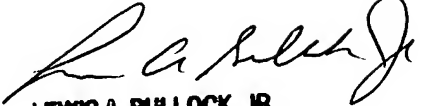
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lewis A. Bullock, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3759. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


LEWIS A. BULLOCK, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

September 2, 2005